



## Adelaide Gail Frost.

[From Missionary Tidings, October, 1895.]

Among the rugged hills of Meigs county, Ohio, in a narrow, green valley, once stood a cottage. In front was a long, low porch, where vines and trees had grown for years untrained. Here the family of A. P. Frost sought a temporary home, while the father ministered to the church in the vicinity.

There on September 23, 1868, Adelaide was born. She came to fill the lonely hearts of her parents after the death of their first-born. In the early years of her life she gave no promise of superiority.

At the age of seven she was sent to school in the country, her parents having moved to Minnesota. There she displayed traits which gave promise of the future scholar. She found spell-

ing more difficult than any other studies. Upon it she bestowed much labor, often spending the entire noon hour in study. She would write the lesson fifty times on her slate, not taking time to eat the luncheon in her little basket.

Among the first books she read was Pilgrim's Progress. This she read many times. In her second year of school she learned to write in six weeks, and brought home a letter written by herself to her mother. From that day until this she has been one of the busiest of writers.

It was one of her childish fancies to have a school of paper dolls. They sat on long benches while she taught them. They each had a personality, and for them she wrote letters descriptive of their struggles and sorrows. These children had parents, and very amusing were some of the letters which passed from one family to the other, telling of measles, whooping cough, etc.

At school she was always a leader. Her teacher knew who was always ready to speak or recite, when company would come unexpectedly. She became a Christian at the age of twelve years. At that time she wrote her first little letter to the *Sunday-School Evangelist*, telling "Uncle Tom" that twelve Sunday-school

scholars were baptized one beautiful evening in June. She taught her first class in Sunday-school at the age of fourteen. At seventeen she wrote her first poem for the *Christian Standard*. At eighteen she taught her first school. The family was living in Colorado at that time. Her work as a teacher gave great satisfaction. She taught in a new district, organizing the work and opening the first day book in the midst of the Rocky Mountains in the valley of the Roaring Fork. She boarded at a wayside inn, walking over lava boulders to her little claim shanty, which served as a school-house. Here she taught, with the utmost patience, children who had never before been in school. She brought them to order and gave these simple mountaineers their first ideas of books and the world which lay beyond the mountains. On leaving, her scholars gave her their picture. Returning to Ohio, she entered the University at Athens, where she remained a year. Hearing of Hiram and its advantages, it was thought best for her to enter that institution. She finished a full course in June, 1894, when she was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

While in college she became a Student Vol-

unteer. She was an active Christian worker, a leader in the Bible work, having received a training in the Y. W. C. A. school at Lake Geneva, Wis.

She first met Miss Mary Graybiel at Hiram, as lady principal of the Ladies' Hall. This excellent woman thought she recognized the future missionary in Adelaide, and a friendship full of the sweetest and most tender sympathy has been the result of more intimate acquaintance.

Together they left their native land for distant India. While they have planned their work together, the "little bungalow" at Mahoba will be the scene of their future work. Here they will have a school for girls, an orphanage, a home for child-widows, and a radiating point for Christian work.

Adelaide joined Miss Graybiel September 1, 1895. The previous summer had been spent at school among the Himalaya Mountains, where she acquired sufficient knowledge of the language to teach. She longed to be of some help in this land where darkness and idolatry have long held dominion.

A FRIEND.

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